



Senator Jackie Speier

District Offices

400 S. El Camino Real, Suite 630  
San Mateo, CA 94402  
(650) 340-8840

455 Golden Gate Ave., Suite 14200  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 557-7857

Capitol Office

State Capitol, Room 2032  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 651-4008

email: senator.speier@sen.ca.gov  
web: www.sen.ca.gov/speier

You can subscribe electronically to Senator Speier’s Legislation, Press Releases and Consumer Alerts by visiting the “publications” link on the senator’s web site.

Prepared by the Senate Subcommittee on Aging & Long-term Care, with the assistance of the California Board of Pharmacy

Designed and Printed by Senate Reprographics

Prescription Drug Discount Program for Medicare Recipients

© Walter Hodges/CORBIS



Senior Fact Sheet

Aging and Long-Term Care Resources

Other important numbers:

- **Area Agency on Aging**  
San Mateo County (650) 573-2700  
San Francisco County (415) 864-6051
- **Adult Protective Services**  
San Mateo County (800) 675-8437  
San Francisco County (415) 557-5230
- **In-Home Support Services**  
San Mateo County (650) 573-2700  
San Francisco County (415) 981-4477
- **RSVP**  
San Mateo County (650) 696-4195  
San Francisco County (415) 731-3335
- **Websites**  
www.medicare.gov  
www.nih.gov  
www.aging.state.ca.us

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Prescription Drug Discount Program for Medicare Recipients

Medicare recipients are now able to pay less for their prescription drugs. Senate Bill 393 signed into law in 1999 by Governor Davis, enables Medicare recipients to obtain prescription drugs at a cost no higher than the Medi-Cal price.

You may be able to save up to 40 percent on the cost of your prescriptions. All you need is your Medicare card.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q. What is the Prescription Drug Discount Program for Medicare Recipients?

A. It is a program that requires Medi-Cal provider pharmacies to charge Medicare recipients no more than the Medi-Cal price for their prescription drugs.

### Q. Who is eligible?

A. Anyone who has a Medicare card is eligible. That includes seniors age 65 and over and those under age 65 who are disabled and have a Medicare card.

### Q. How does the program work?

A. When you give your prescription to the pharmacist, show your Medicare card and request the Medi-Cal price.

### Q. Is Medi-Cal paying for my prescription medication?

A. No, Medi-Cal is not paying for the prescription. You, the Medicare recipient, are still responsible for paying for the prescription medication.

### Q. What about phoned-in prescriptions?

A. Ask the doctor's office to advise the pharmacy that you are a Medicare patient when phoning in your prescription. Then show your card to the pharmacist when you pick up your prescription.

### Q. Can I go to any pharmacy?

A. Only Medi-Cal provider pharmacies are **required** by law to charge a Medicare recipient no more than the Medi-Cal prescription price; but most pharmacies in California do participate in the Medi-Cal program. Ask your pharmacy if it is a Medi-Cal provider.

### Q. How much will I have to pay?

A. That will depend on the medication, but it will not exceed the amount Medi-Cal pays the pharmacy for the medication, plus the .15¢ processing fee.

#### – Please keep in mind –

Obtaining prices from several pharmacies **may** help you find the lowest cost, but **it's best to get all your prescriptions from the same pharmacy**. The pharmacist can record all medications you are taking and what you are taking them for. Your pharmacist can tell you what to do if you have a bad reaction to a drug or find that a drug isn't working. Also, the pharmacist can check your new prescription to make sure it won't react badly with medicine you're **already** taking. Proper pharmaceutical care can protect your health – **or even save your life!**

For questions or for more information, call the California Board of Pharmacy at (916) 445-5014.

- All you need is your Medicare card.

- This program will not affect your coverage under the Medicare program.

- You do not have to be on Medi-Cal.

- Most prescription drugs are covered.

- You can receive the Medi-Cal price from your mail order pharmacy if that pharmacy is a Medi-Cal provider.